

5 June 1961

Report on Special Dinner Meeting

The following is a report on the dinner meeting, held on June 5 in the Prince Arthur Hotel, in honour of Mr. Noel Eaton's visit to the Lakehead. Mr Eaton is Canadian Director of the A.R.R.L. This will serve as a report to out-of-town amateurs or Club members who were unable to attend. It is also being submitted to the Lakehead papers and, therefore, is written for public consumption. For this reason, details re frequencies and discussions on same have not been included.

On Monday evening, June 5, the Port Arthur Amateur Radio Club (*Author's words, Jim - VE3UA Ed.*) Was the host to a visiting celebrity in amateur radio circles. This was Mr. Noel Eaton, who is the Canadian representative of the American Radio Relay League, the largest organization of Radio Amateurs in the world.

Following Mr. Eaton's appearance on "Focus" on the television station CFCJ-TV, he was guest speaker at a dinner meeting in the Prince Arthur Hotel. He was introduced by the Lakehead's best known amateur, Mr. Pat O'Shea - VE3FW, who said that Mr. Eaton was returning from Los Angeles, where he had attended a meeting of the Directors of the League. His amateur activities commenced in 1922 and he now operates amateur station VE3CJ from Burlington, Ontario. On his return journey he has been visiting various amateur radio clubs across the country.

Mr. Eaton, in his address to the Club, spoke of the organization behind the League and of its headquarters in Hartford, Connecticut. The A.R.R.L. was organized before the first world war for the purpose of mutual benefit to "ham" operators, to assist in the pooling of technical knowledge and to relay messages. There were soon 6000 members in the U.S.A. and Canada. This body of experienced operators proved invaluable during the first world war when 4000 of them served in the Armed Forces. Since that time, the number of amateurs in Canada has increased to over 9000, of these about 3600 are active. The activities of these "ham" operators in not confined to the relaying of messages. Their contributions to technical development in the early days of short wave radio are well known and many times valuable public service has been rendered by amateur operators both collectively and individually in times of emergency or disaster. On many occasions, amateur operators have been the only means of communication between isolated points and disaster areas. In Canada, we had an excellent example of this when Toronto and surrounding area was struck by Hurricane Hazel in 1958. Mr. Eaton had taken an active part in this emergency himself. Mr. Eaton spoke at some length regarding the use of transmitting frequencies which are shared by U.S. and Canadian amateurs. Recent changes have been (*implemented*) by the F.C.C. in the U.S.A. and the D.O.T. in Canada with respect to these frequencies and some of the reasons for these changes were outlined. In concluding, Mr. Eaton spoke on the advantages to be gained by the local Club in becoming affiliated with the A.R.R.L.

Mr. Eaton was thanked by Mr. J.C. Bailey - VE3DGZ, who thought that "ham" operators were not only always ready to render public service in cases of emergency, they also had a very strong sense of loyalty to each other. This, he said, was very well demonstrated last winter in Port Arthur. One of the local "hams", Hec Wilson - VE3DMZ, was awakened in the middle of the night with his home in flames. He was just able to get out in time to save his own life but lost everything, including his radio gear. An account of this was given in the press and also on TV but it soon got around via amateur radio. Soon there were more than expressions of sympathy - contributions were sent in to a Toronto amateur. The Lakehead amateurs contributed via the local Club. The final was that Hec received cheques in the amount of \$828.00 to help him recover from his fire loss and get back on the air with new equipment. The Chairman of the meeting was Mr. George Lord - VE3BYG, who announced that the next Club activity would be the annual Field Day. This is an emergency

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type of exercise. Equipment to transmit and receive messages in set up in an open field using an emergency power supply plant. Final arrangements will be made at the next general meeting on Thursday, June 15.

Frank Start - VE3AJ

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